



**MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC  
FAMILY OF PARISHES**

*"A mission-oriented church that forms disciples of Jesus"*

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www.westmiddlesexcatholic.dol.ca

# First Sunday of Lent

## February 21, 2021

### First Sunday of Lent February 21, 2021

Well, Lent has begun! Out into the wilderness we go!

Some of us feel as though we have been in the wilderness for quite some time now. Being isolated from others, in many ways, feels like we have already been through Lent! We are actually looking for a way to leave behind that particular wilderness and get back to civilization and life as we knew it.

We have been hearing the past couple of weeks, how Jesus went to a deserted place to pray. We are meant to take notice of this. There is something in this for us. Perhaps we are meant to find our own deserted place for time away to pray too?

Lately, my time away to pray is found in my daily outdoor walks. With so many distractions and things to think about in my head, it takes practice to say to myself, "be still and know that I am God" so that I can actually hear God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus goes into the wilderness. How would we manage in the wilderness? Could we do 40 days like Jesus did? Would we give up?

After Jesus was baptised, the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. This is something significant for the Spirit to drive Jesus out into the wilderness. It makes me think, that this was something Jesus needed. If you were in the desert for 40 days, I think you would soon know what you were made of! The wilderness Jesus experienced with Satan tempting him, could be likened to Las Vegas. There's temptation to gamble and have fun everywhere you turn. Someone is always calling out to you, trying to get your attention so you will enter into their establishment and leave some of your hard earned cash behind.

What temptation is waiting for you in your wilderness? How will you rid yourself of distractions so you can enter into the wilderness this Lent? The wilderness can be very quiet at times. What will you do all day if you are in the wilderness? Can you be still enough to seek out God?

Having been through a "wilderness" of sorts these past 11 months, many of us found time to realize what was important to us. We missed our families, children and grandchildren. We missed having the freedom to come and go as we please. We certainly missed the opportunity to attend Mass.

A saying comes to mind, "what doesn't kill you will certainly make you stronger!" Take the time this Lent to get in touch with the silence the wilderness brings. Pray, read scripture, fast from your favourite treat or social media. You will hear the voice of God! You will be made stronger!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister

# News for all parishioners ....



## Mass Intentions

\* Until further notice, we will be celebrating one weekday Mass at each church site, on Fridays at 9:00am, followed by Stations of the Cross.

Friday, February 26

**All Saints Church Site – 9:00am Mass**

**Followed by Stations of the Cross**

Gene Donohue – Kathy Whalen

Maria Jose Melo (7th day Mass)

Maria Jose Alves—Emeria Soares

**Sacred Heart, Parkhill Church site – 9:00am Mass**

**Followed by Stations of the Cross**

Jeanny Vermunt – Alice & Lucio Facchina

Sp. Int. Jerome Kieffer - Nick & Candace Schiestel

Deceased members of Vander Vloet & Meeuwssen Families  
- Estate

**St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe Church site – 9:00am Mass**

**Followed by Stations of the Cross**

Andrew Kustermans - Brian and Joanna Simpson

Dick Nantais - David Skipper

Ana Rosa Assuncoa Antunes - Americo Antunes

**ALL PERSONS ENTERING  
OR REMAINING IN  
ENCLOSED PUBLIC SPACES  
SHALL WEAR A MASK OR  
FACE-COVERING WHICH COVERS THE  
NOSE, MOUTH AND CHIN, AT ALL TIMES.**



## **New Protocol for All Masses**

All weekday and weekend Masses are now on a first-come, first-serve basis. That being said, please ensure that you arrive early for registration and seating. At the point where there are no seats available, the doors will be closed and no additional people will be allowed in. Thank you for patience and understanding as we navigate this new procedure.



## Private Prayer Time

All Saints Church site will be open for set times on Tuesday to Friday, for private prayer, beginning Tuesday, February 23rd. Limited to 10 people total in the church at a time. Masks must be worn at all times in the building.

Fr. Steve will be present during this time and available, by appointment, for Confession.

The church will be open on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please be cognizant of sharing the time with others.

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 2:00pm-3:00pm

Wednesday, Friday 5:00pm-6:00pm



## **Sacred Heart Delaware**

**— Message from Fr. Thom**

A Mass will be scheduled in the near future with a Town Hall Meeting. Stay tuned for details to follow. As always, you are welcome to attend any Mass at any church site in the meantime. God Bless!

## Confirmation Information Zoom Meeting



**WHO:** For Parents, Candidates, Grade 8 Teachers and Principals

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:00pm

**LINK:** check the Banner on our website for the live link to this meeting



## REMINDER

Check the website for links to register for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

## *A Child's note to God ...*

*Dear God: I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. Nan*

### Pastoral Team/ Staff

*Fr. Thom Blondin, Pastor ex. 22*  
*Fr. David Johnston, Associate Pastor ex. 23*  
*Fr. Steve Eckert, Associate Pastor ex. 25*  
*Deacon Henry Tomaszewski*  
*Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister ex. 26*  
*Olga Ferreira, Office Administrator ex. 21*  
*Anna Garcia, Secretary ex. 0*  
*Marg VanderBurgt, Secretary ex. 24*  
*\*personal emails can be found on the website*

### **Society St. Vincent de Paul / All Saints Conference**



On our website, the SSVP Christmas Letter has a summary of all the outreach activities that were provided to our community in 2020. Thanks to everyone who helped make these happen!

Watch "Power Hour with Padre T" on Tuesday, March 2nd at 7:00pm for the results of the Parish Virtual



Talent Show. A reminder that Fr. Thom holds weekly Zoom meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00pm. This coming week, meet Kenneth Dupuis, Seminarian.

### Resources for LENT 2021

Check out our website for Lent resources, including videos, readings, and activities. **Also on Sunday, March 7th at 7:00pm, a Virtual Mission will be available on the website.**



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### **Office Hours**

*Office is closed until further notice. Messages are retrieved.*

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation: (Confession)**

*By appointment. Please call the office.*

### **Sacrament of Baptism:**

*Congratulations! Please call Julie to make arrangements at 519-245-0644 ext 26.*

**Sacrament of Marriage:** *Congratulations! Please call the office to make an appointment.*

## **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

### **WEST MIDDLESEX CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES**

**All Saints, Strathroy**

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00 am/10:00 am

**Sacred Heart, Delaware**

(check website for future dates)

**Sacred Heart, Parkhill**

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

**St. Charles Garnier, Glencoe**

Sunday 9:00 am

*If you wish to receive the weekly bulletin sent directly to your inbox, or to get any last minute updates or changes happening across our parishes, please email the office and ask to be put on our list for Flocknotes. Let us know your name, email and which parish you belong to. It's that easy! Never miss another bulletin or update again.*

